

Meeting Date: 11/18/08

AGENDA REPORT

City of Santa Clara, California

Agenda Item # 7A-2



Date: November 6, 2008

To: City Manager for Council Action

From: Senior Staff Aide

Subject: Request to approve and authorize the publication of the proposed *Mission City SCENES*/ January 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The January 2009 issue of Mission City SCENES is scheduled to include the following:

- Volunteer to Serve Your Community
- Watch for *Inside Santa Clara*, your City newspaper
- Vehicle Abatement Program
- Sister Cities Events
- Free Online Homework Help and Tutoring

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ISSUE:

The *Mission City SCENES* provides timely and important information to citizens, including details about City events and programs, and updates of City activities. There are no recognized disadvantages.

ECONOMIC/FISCAL IMPACT:

Cost of printing the *Mission City SCENES* for one year is \$28,000 or roughly 4.5 cents for each insert printed. There is no additional postage cost for including the *SCENES* with utility bills. With the current one-page utility bills, there is sometimes sufficient postage to handle a second, additional insert without incurring increased postage costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council approve and authorize the publication of the proposed January 2009 *Mission City SCENES*.

Jashma Kadam
Senior Staff Aide

APPROVED:

Jennifer Sparacino
City Manager

Documents Related to this Report:

1) January 2009 *Mission City SCENES*

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Cover

Watch For *Inside Santa Clara*, Your City newspaper

Inside Santa Clara, the quarterly municipal newspaper, is mailed to all residents and businesses in the City. The City Council approved this publication ten years ago, with delivery for residents, expanding delivery to businesses a year later.

The newspaper contains information about municipal programs and services, special events, opportunities to serve on City commissions, public meeting schedules, Code Enforcement tips for maintaining a clean and healthy community, and much more.

All City departments participate by providing timely articles about services and activities that businesses and residents may find valuable. Watch for this quarterly newspaper, which comes out in early March, June, September, and December. Keep in touch with what is going on in your community. Read *Inside Santa Clara*!

INSIDE --

- ◆ Volunteer to Serve Your Community
- ◆ Vehicle Abatement Program
- ◆ Sister Cities Events
- ◆ Free Online Homework Help and Tutoring

Volunteer to Serve Your Community

Connecting through volunteer service is a great way to bring people together and help create a better future for all of us. In addition, nothing can compare with the feeling you will get from making a positive difference in someone's life, including your own. Whether you volunteer for a short-term service activity or a long-term commitment, every effort makes a difference to our community. You are invited to connect with the City of Santa Clara's volunteer team. Volunteer opportunities are available in a number of different areas:

- ◆ Commissioner on one of the City's nine board/commissions
- ◆ Library Reading Program Tutor
- ◆ Library Genealogy Room Consultant
- ◆ Museum Docent at the Headen-Inman House or Harris-Lass Historic Preserve
- ◆ Senior Center Volunteer
- ◆ Youth Activity Center Volunteer
- ◆ Police Activities League (P.A.L.) Volunteer
- ◆ Ulistac Natural Area Volunteer

For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, call Pam Morrison at (408) 615-2219, or visit the City's website at http://santaclaraca.gov/community/commu_volunteers_index.html.

Abandoned Vehicle Abatement

Did you know that the Santa Clara Police Department offers an Abandoned Vehicle Hotline to report vehicle(s) considered abandoned within our City limits? The 24-hour hotline phone number is 615-4778. An abandoned vehicle is one that is parked in violation of Santa Clara Municipal Code Section 10.05.470, which prohibits parking or storing any vehicle on a public street for more than 72 consecutive hours.

Abandoned vehicle complaints are received by the Police Department's Traffic Division and assigned to a Community Service Officer to begin the abatement process. Once all City Code requirements have been met and verified, the Police Department will take the appropriate legal action for compliance and resolution. Non-compliance can result in the issuance of a citation and/or towing of the vehicle. The costs of all citations, towing and storage fees, and City vehicle release fees are the responsibility of the vehicle owner. A release must be obtained from the Police Department before a towed vehicle can be claimed.

In addition, Santa Clara Municipal Code Section 10.10.010 prohibits the storage of any abandoned, disabled, dismantled, or inoperative vehicle, or parts thereof, on private single-family residential properties where visible from the public right-of-way. These types of vehicles may also be reported to the hotline for further assessment.

Vehicle(s) parked or stored on private streets, commercial properties, and/or rental housing properties (including parking lots), are not covered by the City's abatement program. California Vehicle Code Section 22658 makes it the financial and legal responsibility of the private property owner to resolve these types of problems.

For parking violations not related to abandoned vehicles, such as limited time zone areas, designated handicapped spaces, painted curbs, signs, commercial vehicles parked within 300 feet of residential property, or someone living inside of a vehicle, please call the Santa Clara Police non-emergency Dispatch line at 615-5580 for a prompt response.

Sister Cities Events

A gala reception for the 2008 Sister Cities International Showcase of Young Artists will be held Friday, February 6, 2009, at the Triton Museum to launch a one-month display of the artwork of 20 finalists. Entries for the 2009

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competition, with the theme "Path to Your Peace," are due by March 13. For more information, contact Debbie Pavao at dpavao.scsca@gmail.com.

An international concert on March 14 is being co-sponsored by the Santa Clara Sister Cities Association and the San Jose Sister City group. The Ambassadors, the Santa Clara Honors Youth Symphony composed of middle and high school students under the direction of David Ladd Anderson, and The Gaukugeiken Band from Okayama, Japan, San Jose's sister city, will perform at Santa Clara University's Mayer Theatre. For more information, email Debi Davis at debid56@comcast.net.

Free Online Homework Help and Tutoring

Homework problems? Come to the Library or log-in from home using a valid Santa Clara City library card and get free, unlimited online homework help! An expert tutor is only a few clicks away.

You chat real-time, one-on-one with a tutor using an instant messenger, and can share and mark up lessons and files on a "whiteboard." There are no session limits—ask questions and work together for 5 minutes, 15 minutes, or an hour.

HelpNow can provide tutoring for grades 3-12, including advance placement, in English/language arts, math (algebra I, algebra II, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus), science (biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science), and social studies.

HelpNow also offers a Writing Lab. Send your paper to a tutor and within 24 hours you will receive a response consisting of a critique and suggestions.

This service is supported by funding from the Foundation & Friends of Santa Clara City Library and, in part, by Library Services and Technology Act funds administered by the California State Library.